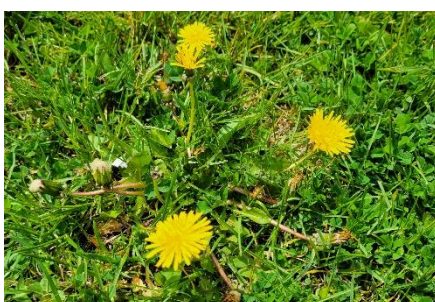


DANDELION ACTIVITY SUITE

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE DETERMINED DANDELION?



Dandelion landscape



Dandelion plant



Dandelion flower head

First, try your hand at labelling the parts of a dandelion ray floret!

Dandelion Flower Diagram



Pappus

Anther
tube

Ovary

Stigma

Style

Corolla

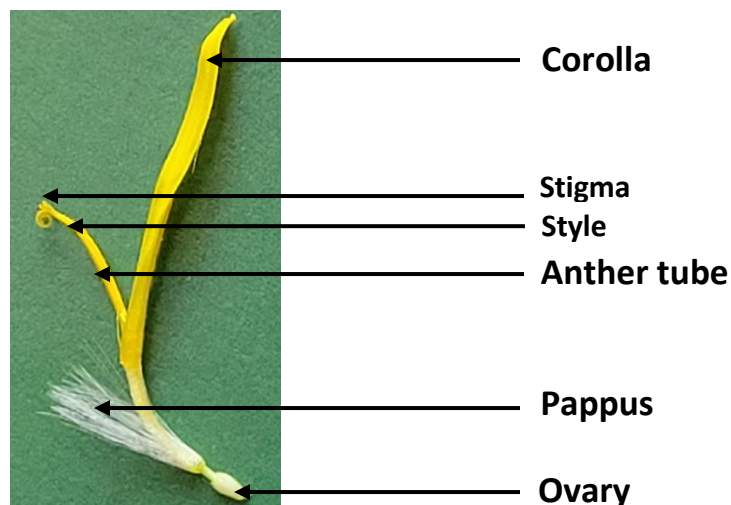
Dandelion Quiz

1. "Dandelion" in French is _____ which means _____? Hint: look at the shape of the leaves!
2. Why are dandelions considered to be weeds?
3. Why are dandelions able to live in very difficult places such as cracks in sidewalks, in gravel etc.?
4. What part of the dandelion plant can be used for salad? What part of the can be used to make wine? What other uses for the dandelion do you know about?
5. How many "mini" petals are fused together to make up the corolla?
6. What does the pappus become later on?
7. Dandelion flowers mature quickly, changing to a fluffy ball of seed heads. Why do many people break off or mow dandelion flowers before this happens?

DANDELION ACTIVITY SUITE

ANSWER KEY

Labelled Dandelion Ray Floret



Dandelion Quiz Answers

1. Dandelion (genus: *Taraxacum*) in French is “dent de lion” which means “tooth of a lion”.
2. Dandelions are considered to be weeds because they grow in places where we don’t want them – where we wish to grow our lawns, or our crops, flowers or vegetables.
3. Dandelions can grow in poor soil because of their very long tap root (which is like a long carrot) that can take in nutrients and water at deeper levels in the ground.
4. Salad: young/fresh leaves. Wine: flower heads with green petals removed. Some other uses: caffeine-free coffee alternative (from ground, roasted roots) and traditional medicines.
5. The corolla is made up of 5 “fused” mini petals.
6. Pappi later become the carriers (“parachutes”) to help distribute the fertilized egg/ovary (the seeds), up to a couple of hundred seeds per dandelion!
7. People try to remove dandelion heads before they mature because once the “parachutes” disperse, each containing one seed, they are blown by the wind (up to 1 km!) in the hopes of becoming next year’s dandelions!